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Today's News - November 9, 2005

A call for democratic and equitable planning in New Orleans that includes residents and refugees. — China plans a string of "eco-cities." — An 11-year-old (and trendy) Denver neighborhood proves there's life after military base closures. — Commuter train station parking lots reborn as transit-oriented developments. — Urban parking garages - "architectural scum, lower down architecture's evolutionary scale than Travelodges" - being transformed into "things of beauty." — Cincinnati joins the growing trend to eliminate once-vaunted skywalks. — Atlanta's High Museum "deferential" addition is "an absolute joy to walk through." — Things are looking up for Oxford's Ashmolean Museum - too long "an embarrassment" behind an elegant facade. — The Museum of the City of New York's on-again-off-again expansion is on again. — University of Maryland's Alumni Center is "kind of lovable" and "plenty strange." — Libeskind's first building in Israel opens. — Sir Basil Spence to finally get his due. — Another Inventioneering Architecture lecture online.

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Op-Ed: A Plan For Democratic And Equitable Planning In New Orleans: Planners...have already descended on the Gulf Coast region...careful, long-term planning is needed to ensure that current residents and refugees alike are given the stake and voice they need in the rebuilding efforts. By Leonardo Vazquez, AICP/PP- PLANetizen

British to help China build a string of 'eco-cities': ...regarded both as a prototype for urban living in over-populated and polluted environments and as a magnet for investment... -- Arup- Observer (UK)

Denver community proves there's life after a base closes: It holds lessons for latest communities on closure list...Now, 11 years after...Lowry is one of Denver's trendiest neighborhoods - and living proof that there is life after Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).- Christian Science Monitor

Home on the rails: For aging suburban baby boomers who want the condo life without living in Center City [Philadelphia], the answer could be developments being planned near train stations [transit-oriented developments/TODs]. By Inga Saffron — Wallace Roberts & Todd; Cope Linder Architects- Philadelphia Inquirer

Multistorey makeovers: Town-centre car parks are being turned into things of beauty. By Tom Dyckhoff – Louis Kahn; Koolhaas; Cullen Payne; MCM Architects; Herzog & de Meuron; Hentrich-Petschnigg & Partner; Teresa Sapey; Owen Luder; Birds Portchmouth Russum-The Times (UK)

A web of walkways: ...in 1971, the city was in the vanguard of a trend...But after years of complaints that the system removes people from the downtown streetscape, Cincinnati will be joining in another trend: the demise of the skwalk.- Cincinnati Enquirer

Sense of transparency: Renzo Piano sensitively adds to a Richard Meier [High Museum] design... It is hard to think of another American example where connected buildings by two prominent architects get along so well. By Christopher Hawthorne [images]- Los Angeles Times

Heroic collections find a worthy setting: Behind its elegant façade, the state of Oxford's Ashmolean Museum has long been an embarrassment - but a £49m rebuild is about to change that. By Giles Worsley -- CR Cockerell (1845); Rick Mather [image]- Telegraph (UK)

Preserving the Past, Planning the Future: The on-again off-again expansion project of the Museum of the City of New York is on again - and this time it seems to be for certain. -- Polshek Partnership- New York Times

New [University of Maryland] Alumni Center in a Class by Itself: ...admirable and smart in lots of ways. It is kind of lovable. It's also plenty strange. By Benjamin Forgey -- Hugh Newell Jacobsen [image]- Washington Post

First Libeskind building in Israel to open: Wohl Centre at Bar-llan University in Ramat Gan — The Heder Partnership- Ynetnews (Israel)

Built to last: A 'pivotal architect' back in the spotlight: Sir Basil Spence [1907-1976]...had one foot in the Arts and Crafts movement and the other in modernism...- Guardian (UK)

Inventioneering Architecture - Dirk Hebel and Jorg Stollmann, Assistant Professors of Architecture and Design at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH): swissnex lecutre series at California College of the Arts [audio, video]- Architecture Radio

High Tech High - Los Angeles: A new charter school is an incubator for new ideas and new approaches to learning - and teaching - technology. — Berliner and Associates, Architecture [images]- ArchNewsNow

Groundbreaking: Dallas Center for the Performing Arts:
-- Foster & Partners: Winspear Opera House
-- Rem Koolhaas/OMA: Dee and Charles Wyly Theater

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